

21.16(2) Reentry into public employment by an employee on military leave can be achieved if the individual accepts employment with a covered employer. Reemployment may begin anytime within 12 months of the individual's discharge from military service or, if longer, within the period provided under USERRA. Upon reemployment the member shall receive credit for all service to which the member is entitled pursuant to USERRA.

Notwithstanding any provision of Iowa Code chapter 97B or these rules to the contrary, contributions, benefits and service credit with respect to qualified military service will be provided in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 414(u).

For reemployments initiated on or after December 12, 1994, a member shall be treated as receiving compensation for each month during the member's period of military service equal to the member's average monthly compensation during the 12-month period immediately preceding the period of military service or, if shorter, the member's average monthly compensation for the period immediately preceding the period of military service. The member's deemed compensation during the period of military service shall be taken into consideration in determining a member's make-up contributions, if any, and the member's high three-year average covered wage.

For reemployments initiated on or after December 12, 1994, make-up contributions shall be permitted with respect to employee contributions that would have been made during the period of military service if the member had actually been in covered employment during the period earning the deemed compensation provided for under this subrule. Make-up contributions shall be permitted during the five-year period that begins on the date of reemployment or, if less, a period equal to three times the period of military service.

The member shall request the foregoing make-up contributions (except contributions for periods prior to January 1, 1995, which shall be made as posttax contributions) on forms to be filed with the employer, which shall forward a copy to the system. Make-up contributions shall be made as pretax contributions under Internal Revenue Code Section 414(h)(2). Employers must comply with a member's request to begin make-up contributions during a period not exceeding that described in the preceding paragraph and shall forward said amounts to the system in the same manner as provided for pick-up contributions under Iowa Code section 97B.11A. An election to make up employee contributions under this rule shall be irrevocable.

21.16(3) Effective for leaves of absence beginning on or after July 1, 1998, an eligible member must make contributions to the system in order to receive service credit for the period of the leave (except for leaves under subrule 21.16(1) above). Contributions may be made in increments of one quarter or more.

21.16(4) Reentry into public employment by an employee on a leave of absence under subrule 21.16(1) can be achieved by the employee by accepting employment with any public employer, provided that any interruption between the end of the period of leave of absence and reentry into public employment meets the requirements of the FMLA, USERRA and this rule.

21.16(5) Credit for a leave of absence shall not be granted and cannot be purchased for any time period which begins after or extends beyond an employee's termination of employment as certified by the employer. This includes a certification of termination of employment made by an employer on a refund application. Employers shall be required to certify all leaves of absence for which credit is being requested using an affidavit furnished by IPERS and accompanied by a copy of the official record(s) which authorized the leave of absence. The provisions of this subrule denying credit for leaves of absence in cases in which the member takes a refund shall not apply to employees who were on leaves of absence that began before November 27, 1996, and took a refund before such date. The provisions of the subrule requiring employers to certify all leaves of absence using an affidavit furnished by IPERS shall apply to all requests for leave of absence credit filed after November 27, 1996, regardless of when the leave of absence was granted.

21.16(6) For a leave of absence beginning on or after July 1, 1998, and purchased before July 1, 1999, the service purchase cost shall be equal to the employer and employee contributions and interest payable for the employee's most recent year of covered wages, adjusted by the inflation factor used in rule 21.24(97B). For a leave of absence beginning on or after July 1, 1998, and purchased on or after July 1, 1999, the service purchase cost shall be the actuarial cost, as certified by IPERS' actuary. In calculating the actuarial cost of a service purchase under this subrule, the actuary shall apply the same actuarial assumptions and cost methods used in preparing IPERS' annual actuarial valuation, except that: (1) the retirement assumption shall be changed to 100 percent at the member's earliest unreduced retirement age; and (2) if the actuary uses gender-distinct mortality assumptions, the system shall use blended mortality assumptions reasonably representative of the system's experience. The actuarial cost of a service purchase shall be the difference between (1) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions and current service credits, and (2) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions, current service credits, and all quarters of service credit available for purchase. If IPERS changes the service purchase mortality assumptions upon the recommendation of its actuary, all outstanding service purchase quotes shall be binding for the remainder of the periods for which the cost quotes were issued. A cost quote for a service purchase shall expire six months after it is delivered to the member. After that time, a new cost quote must be obtained for any quarters not previously purchased.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.1A(8), 97B.1A(8A), 97B.1A(19) and 97B.81.

581—21.17(97B) Membership status.

21.17(1) Effective July 1, 1990, a member achieves vested status when the member has served and made contributions in 16 or more quarters of IPERS-covered employment or attains the age of 55. The vested status of a member may also be determined when the member's contribution payments cease. At that time a comparison of the membership date and termination date will be made. If service sufficient to indicate vested status is present, after any periods of interruption in service have been taken into consideration, the member shall be considered a vested member. All vested members receive all the rights and benefits of a vested member in IPERS until or unless the member files for a refund of accumulated contributions.

21.17(2) For the purposes of this rule, four quarters of coverage shall constitute a year of membership service for a member employed on a fiscal- or calendar-year basis. A member working for a school district or other institution which operates on a nine-month basis shall be granted a year of membership service for each year in which the member has three or more quarters of coverage, if the employee remains in covered employment for the next operating year. An employee who terminates covered employment and has no wages paid in the third quarter shall not receive service credit for the third quarter. Only one year of membership service credit shall be granted for any 12-month period.

21.17(3) Rescinded IAB 7/22/92, effective 7/2/92.

21.17(4) Effective July 1, 1988, an inactive member who had accumulated, as of the date of the member's last termination of employment, years of membership service equal to or exceeding the years of membership service specified in this subrule for qualifying as a vested member on the date of termination, shall be considered vested.

21.17(5) In the case of a complete or partial termination of this fund, any affected member shall have a vested interest in the accrued benefit as of the date of such termination, to the extent such benefit is then funded.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 97B.41.

581—21.18(97B) Retirement dates.

21.18(1) Effective through December 31, 1992, the first month of entitlement of a member who qualifies for retirement benefits is the first month following the member's last day of service or last day of leave, with or without pay, whichever is later.

21.18(2) Effective January 1, 1993, the first month of entitlement of an employee who qualifies for retirement benefits shall be the first month after the employee is paid the last paycheck, if paid more than one calendar month after termination. If the final paycheck is paid within the month after termination, the first month of entitlement shall be the month following termination.

Effective January 1, 2001, employees of a school corporation who are permitted by the terms of their employment contracts to receive their annual salaries in monthly installments over periods ranging from 9 to 12 months may retire at the end of a school year and receive trailing wages through the end of the contract year if they have completely fulfilled their contract obligations at the time of retirement. For purposes of this subrule, "school corporation" means body politic described in Iowa Code sections 260C.16 (community colleges), 273.2 (area education agencies) and 273.1 (K-12 public schools). For purposes of this subrule, "trailing wages" means previously earned wage payments made to such employees of a school corporation after the first month of entitlement. This exception does not apply to hourly employees, including those who make arrangements with their employers to hold back hourly wages for payment at a later date, to employees who are placed on sick or disability leave or leave of absence, or to employees who receive lump sum leave, vacation leave, early retirement incentive pay or any other lump sum payments in installments.

For all employees of all IPERS covered employers who terminate employment in January 2003, or later, if the final paycheck is paid within the same quarter or within one quarter after termination and wages are reported under the normal pay schedule, the first month of entitlement shall be the month following termination. However, if the last paycheck is paid more than one quarter after the termination, the first month of entitlement shall be the first month after the employee is paid the last paycheck. Under no circumstances shall such trailing wages result in more than one quarter of service credit being added to retiring members' earning records.

21.18(3) To be eligible for a monthly retirement benefit, the member must survive into the designated first month of entitlement. If the member dies prior to the first month of entitlement, the member's application for monthly benefits is canceled and the distribution of the member's account is made pursuant to Iowa Code section 97B.52. Cancellation of the application shall not invalidate a beneficiary designation. If the application is dated later in time than any other designations, IPERS will accept the designation in a canceled application as binding until a subsequent designation is filed.

21.18(4) The first month of entitlement of a member qualifying under the rule of 88 (see subrule 21.11(3)) shall be the first of the month when the member's age as of the last birthday and years of service equal 88. The fact that a member's birthday allowing a member to qualify for the rule of 88 is the same month as the first month of entitlement does not affect the retirement date.

21.18(5) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, members shall commence receiving a distribution on or before the minimum distribution required beginning date set forth in the Internal Revenue Code. In general, members must begin distributions on or before April 1 of the calendar year after the calendar year in which they attain age of 70½, or actually terminate employment (if later).

21.18(6) For purposes of determining benefits, the life expectancy of a member, a member's spouse, or a member's beneficiary shall not be recalculated after benefits commence.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.45, 97B.47 and 97B.48(1) and (2).

581—21.19(97B) Wage-earning disqualifications for retired members.

21.19(1) Effective July 1, 1998, the monthly benefit payments for a member under the age of 65 who has a bona fide retirement and is then reemployed in covered employment shall be reduced by 50 cents for each dollar the member earns in excess of the annual limit. Effective July 1, 2002, the amount of remuneration permitted for a calendar year for a person under the age of 65 before a reduction in federal Social Security retirement benefits is required, or \$30,000, whichever is greater. The foregoing reduction shall apply only to IPERS benefits payable for the applicable year that the member has reemployment earnings, and after the earnings limit has been reached. Said reductions shall be applied as provided in subrule 21.19(2) below.

Effective January 1, 1991, this earnings limitation does not apply to covered employment in an elective office. A member aged 65 or older who has completed at least four full calendar months of bona fide retirement and is later reemployed in covered employment shall not be subject to any wage-earning disqualification.

21.19(2) Beginning on or after July 1, 1996, the retirement allowance of a member subject to reduction pursuant to subrule 21.19(1) shall be reduced as follows:

a. A member's monthly retirement allowance in the next following calendar year shall be reduced by the excess amounts earned in the preceding year divided by the number of months remaining in the following calendar year after the excess amount has been determined. A member may elect to make repayment of the overpayments received in lieu of having the member's monthly benefit reduced. Elections to make installment payments must be accompanied by a repayment agreement signed by the member and IPERS. If the monthly amount to be deducted exceeds a member's monthly retirement allowance, the member's monthly allowance shall be withheld in its entirety until the overpayment is recovered. If a member dies and the full amount of overpayments determined under this subrule has not been repaid, the remaining amounts shall be deducted from the payments to be made, if any, to the member's designated beneficiary or contingent annuitant. If the member has selected an option under which there are no remaining amounts to be paid, or the remaining amounts are insufficient, the unrecovered amounts shall be a charge on the member's estate.

b. Employers shall be required to complete IPERS wage reporting forms for reemployed individuals which shall reflect the prior year's wage payments on a month-to-month basis. These reports shall be used by IPERS to determine the amount which must be recovered to offset overpayments in the prior calendar year due to reemployment wages.

c. A member may elect in writing to have the member's monthly retirement allowance suspended in the month in which the member's remuneration exceeds the amount of remuneration permitted under this rule in lieu of receiving a reduced retirement allowance under paragraph "a" of this subrule. If the member's retirement allowance is not suspended timely, the overpayment will be recovered pursuant to paragraph "a" of this subrule. The member's retirement allowance shall remain suspended until the earlier of January of the following calendar year or the member's termination of covered employment. The member's election shall remain binding until revoked in writing.

21.19(3) A member who is reemployed in covered employment after retirement may, after again retiring from employment, request a recomputation of benefits. The member's retirement benefit shall be increased if possible by the addition of a second annuity, which is based on years of reemployment service, reemployment covered wages and the benefit formula in place at the time of the recomputation. A maximum of 30 years of service is creditable to an individual retiree. If a member's combined years of service exceed 30, a member's initial annuity may be reduced by a fraction of the years in excess of 30 divided by 30. The second retirement benefit will be treated as a separate annuity by IPERS. Any contributions that cannot be used in the recomputation of benefits shall be refunded to the employee and the employer.

Effective July 1, 1998, a member who is reemployed in covered employment after retirement may, after again terminating employment, elect to receive a refund of the employee and employer contributions made during the period of reemployment in lieu of a second annuity. If a member requests a refund in lieu of a second annuity, the related service credit shall be forfeited.

21.19(4) In recomputing a retired member's monthly benefit, IPERS shall use the following assumptions.

- a.* The member cannot change option or beneficiary with respect to reemployment period.
- b.* If the reemployment period is less than four years, the money purchase formula shall be used to compute the benefit amount.

c. If the reemployment period is four or more years, the benefit formula in effect as of the first month of entitlement (FME) for the reemployment period shall be used. If the FME is July 1998 or later, and the member has more than 30 years of service, including both original and reemployment service, the percentage multiplier for the reemployment period only will be at the applicable percentage (up to 65 percent) for the total years of service.

d. If a period of reemployment would increase the monthly benefit a member is entitled to receive, the member may elect between the increase and a refund of the employee and employer contributions without regard to reemployment FME.

e. If a member previously elected IPERS Option 1, is eligible for an increase in the Option 1 monthly benefits, and elects to receive the increase in the member's monthly benefits, the member's Option 1 death benefit shall also be increased if the investment is at least \$1,000. The amount of the increase shall be at least the same percentage of the maximum death benefit permitted with respect to the reemployment as the percentage of the maximum death benefit elected at the member's original retirement. In determining the increase in Option 1 death benefits, IPERS shall round up to the nearest \$1,000. For example, if a member's investment for a period of reemployment is \$1,900 and the member elected at the member's original retirement to receive 50 percent of the Option 1 maximum death benefit, the death benefit attributable to the reemployment shall be \$1,000 (50 percent times \$1,900, rounded up to the nearest \$1,000). Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the member's investment for the period of reemployment is less than \$1,000, the benefit formula for a member who originally elected new IPERS Option 1 shall be calculated under IPERS Option 3.

f. A retired reemployed member whose reemployment FME precedes July 1998 shall not be eligible to receive the employer contributions made available to retired reemployed members under Iowa Code section 97B.48A(4) effective July 1, 1998.

g. A retired reemployed member who requests a return of the employee and employer contributions made during a period of reemployment cannot repay the distribution and have the service credit for the period of reemployment restored.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.1A, 97B.45 and 97B.48A.

581—21.20(97B) Identification of agents.

21.20(1) Recognition of agents. When a claimant before IPERS desires to be represented by an agent in the presentation of a case, the claimant shall designate in writing the name of a representative and the nature of the business the representative is authorized to transact. Such designation on the part of the claimant shall constitute for IPERS sufficient proof of the acceptability of the individual to serve as the claimant's agent. An attorney in good standing may be so designated by the claimant.

21.20(2) Payment to incompetents. When it appears that the interest of a claimant or retiree would be served, IPERS may recognize an agent to represent the individual in the transaction of the affairs with IPERS. Recognition may be obtained through the filing with IPERS of a copy of the guardianship, trusteeship, power of attorney, conservatorship or Social Security representative payee documents by the individual so designated. Such persons have all the rights and obligations of the member. Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of the foregoing representatives shall have the right to name the representative as the member's beneficiary unless approved to do so by a court having jurisdiction of the matter, or unless expressly authorized to do so in a power of attorney executed by the member.

21.20(3) An individual serving in the capacity of an agent establishes an agreement with IPERS to transact all business with IPERS in such a manner that the interests of the retiree or claimant are best served. Payments made to the agent on behalf of the individual will be used for the direct benefit of the retiree or claimant. Failure to adhere to the agreement will cause discontinuance of the agency relationship and may serve as the basis for legal action by IPERS or the member.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.34 and 97B.37.

581—21.21(97B) Actuarial equivalent (AE) payments.

21.21(1) If a member aged 55 or older requests an estimate of benefits which results in any one of the options having a monthly benefit amount of less than \$50, the member may elect, under Iowa Code section 97B.48(1), to receive a lump sum actuarial equivalent (AE) payment in lieu of a monthly benefit. Once the AE payment has been paid to the member, the member shall not be entitled to any further benefits based on the contributions included in the AE payment and the employment period represented thereby. Should the member later return to covered employment, any future benefits the member accrues will be based solely on the new employment period. If an estimate of benefits based on the new employment period again results in any one of the options having a monthly benefit amount of less than \$50, the member may again elect to receive an AE payment.

21.21(2) If a member, upon attaining the age of 70 or later, requests a retirement allowance without terminating employment and any one of the options results in a monthly benefit amount of less than \$50, the member may elect to receive an AE payment based on the member's employment up to, but not including, the quarter in which the application is filed. When the member subsequently terminates covered employment, any benefits due to the member will be based only on the period of employment not used in computing the AE paid when the member first applied for a retirement allowance. If an estimate of benefits based on the later period of employment again results in any of the options having a monthly benefit amount of less than \$50, the member may again elect to receive another AE payment. A member who elects to receive an AE payment without terminating employment may not elect to receive additional AE payments unless the member terminates all covered employment and completes a bona fide retirement as provided in these rules.

21.21(3) An AE payment shall be equal to the sum of the member's and employer's accumulated contributions and the retirement dividends standing to the member's credit before December 31, 1966.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.4, 97B.15 and 97B.48(1).

581—21.22(97B) Disability for persons not retiring under Iowa Code section 97B.50A.

21.22(1) The following standards apply to the establishment of a disability under the provisions of IPERS:

a. The member must inform IPERS at retirement that the retirement is due to an illness, injury or similar condition. The member must also initiate an application for federal Social Security disability benefits or federal Railroad Retirement Act disability benefits.

b. To qualify for the IPERS disability provision, the member must be awarded federal Social Security benefits due to the disability which existed at the time of retirement.

c. Effective July 1, 1990, the member may also qualify for the IPERS disability provision by being awarded, and commencing to receive, disability benefits through the federal Railroad Retirement Act, 45 U.S.C. Section 231 et seq., due to a disability which existed at the time of retirement.

21.22(2) If a member returns to covered employment after achieving a bona fide retirement, the benefits being provided to the member under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2) "a" or "b" shall be suspended or reduced as follows. If the member has not attained the age of 55 upon reemployment, benefit payments shall be suspended in their entirety until the member subsequently terminates employment, applies for, and is approved to receive benefits under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 97B. If the member is aged 55 or older upon reemployment, the member shall continue to receive monthly benefits adjusted as follows. Monthly benefits shall be calculated under the same benefit option that was first selected, based on the member's age, years of service, and the applicable reductions for early retirement as of the month that the member returns to covered employment. The member's benefit shall also be subject to the applicable provisions of Iowa Code section 97B.48A pertaining to reemployed retirees.

21.22(3) Upon terminating a reemployment that resulted in the suspension of all or a portion of the member's disability retirement allowance, the member's benefits shall be recomputed under Iowa Code section 97B.48A and 581—21.19(97B). To requalify for a monthly retirement allowance under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2), the member must furnish a new or updated social security disability award letter, or other acceptable documentation from the Social Security Administration indicating that the member is currently eligible for social security disability benefits.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 97B.50.

581—21.23(97B) Confidentiality of records.

21.23(1) Records established and maintained by IPERS containing personal information are not public records under Iowa Code chapter 22. Records may be released to the member or the beneficiary (if the beneficiary is entitled to funds) or to a person designated by the member or beneficiary in writing. Records may also be released to an executor, administrator or attorney of record for an estate of a deceased member or beneficiary.

21.23(2) Summary information concerning the demographics of the IPERS membership and general statistical information concerning the system and its activities are made available in accordance with Iowa Code Supplement section 97B.17 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2532, section 13.

21.23(3) Notwithstanding any provisions of Iowa Code chapter 22 or 97B to the contrary, the department's records may be released to any political subdivision, instrumentality, or other agency of the state solely for use in a civil or criminal law enforcement activity pursuant to the requirements of this subrule. To obtain the records, the political subdivision, instrumentality, or agency shall, in writing, certify that the activity is authorized by law, provide a written description of the information desired, and describe the law enforcement activity for which the information is sought. The department shall not be civilly or criminally liable for the release or rerelease of records in accordance with this subrule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.15 and 97B.17.

581—21.24(97B) Service buy-in/buy-back.

21.24(1) *Prior service buy-back.*

a. Effective July 1, 1990, a member who was active, vested or retired on or after July 1, 1978, and who made contributions to IOASI between January 1, 1946, and June 30, 1953, and took a refund of those contributions, may buy back the amount of that refund plus interest in order to establish quarters of service covered by the refund. Less than a full quarter of service will be considered equivalent to a full quarter of service. A teacher who has three quarters of service and a contract for the following year will be granted four quarters of service. IPERS may require the submission of a copy of the contract.

b. Prior to July 1, 1990, a member who was active, vested or retired as of July 1, 1978, and who made contributions to IOASI between January 1, 1946, and June 30, 1953, and who took a refund of those contributions, was able to buy back the amount of that refund and establish years of service covered by the refund.

c. A member cannot participate in the prior service buy-back if the member had taken an IPERS refund (contributions made after July 4, 1953) unless the member first participated in the IPERS buy-back in accordance with this rule.

If a member decides to buy back prior service credit, the member must repay the entire refunded amount plus the accumulated interest and interest dividends on that amount.

If a member participating in a prior service buy-back had years of public service within Iowa prior to January 1, 1946, those years of service will also be added to the member's account at no cost, subject to the member's providing verification of public service.

21.24(2) Purchase IPERS credit for service in other public employment.

a. Effective July 1, 1992, a vested or retired member may make application to IPERS for purchasing credit for service rendered to another public employer. In order to be eligible, a member must:

(1) Have been a public employee in a position comparable to an IPERS covered position at the time the application for buy-in is processed. Effective July 1, 1990, "public employee" includes members who had service as a public employee in another state, or for the federal government, or within other retirement systems established in the state of Iowa;

(2) Waive on a form provided by IPERS all rights to a retirement in another system for that period of employment sought to be purchased, if any; such a waiver must be accepted by the other retirement system before the member can proceed with a buy-in of that service time into IPERS; and

(3) Submit verification of service for that other public employer to IPERS.

A quarter of credit will be given for each quarter the employee was paid. If no pay dates are shown, credit will be given if the employee had service of at least 15 days in the quarter.

b. A qualifying member who decides to purchase IPERS credit must make employer and employee contributions to IPERS for each calendar quarter of service allowed in this buy-in. This contribution shall be determined using the member's covered IPERS wages for the most recent full calendar year of IPERS coverage, the applicable rates established in Iowa Code sections 97B.11, 97B.49B and 97B.49C, and multiplied by the number of quarters being purchased from other public employment. "Applicable rates" means the rates in effect at the time of purchase for the types of service being purchased. A member must have at least four quarters of reported wages in any calendar year before a buy-in cost may be calculated.

c. If a vested or retired member does not have wages in the most recent calendar year, the cost of the buy-in will be calculated using the member's last calendar year of reported wages, adjusted by an inflation factor based on the Consumer Price Index as published by the United States Department of Labor.

d. Members eligible to complete the buy-in may buy the entire period of service for a public employer or may buy credit in increments of one or more calendar quarters. The quarters need not be specifically identified to particular calendar quarters. A period of service is defined as follows: (1) if a member was continuously employed by an employer, the entire time is one period of employment, regardless of whether a portion or all of the service was covered by one or more retirement systems; and (2) if a member is continuously employed by multiple employers within a single retirement system, the entire service credited by the other retirement system is a period of employment. A member with service credit under another public employee retirement system who wishes to transfer only a portion of the service value of the member's public service in another public system to IPERS, must provide a waiver of that service time to IPERS together with proof that the other public system has accepted this waiver and allowed partial withdrawal of service credit. Members are allowed to purchase time credited by the other public employer as a leave of absence in the same manner as other service credit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, members wishing to receive free credit for military service performed while in the employ of a qualifying non-IPERS covered public employer must purchase the entire period of service encompassing the service time for that public employer or in the other retirement system, excluding the military time. Veterans' credit originally purchased in another retirement system may be purchased into IPERS in the same manner as other service credit.

e. The total amount paid will be added to the member's contributions and the years of service this amount represents will be added to the member's IPERS years of service. Effective January 1, 1993, the purchase will not affect the member's three-year average covered wage.

f. Effective July 1, 1999, an eligible member must pay the actuarial cost of a buy-in, as certified by IPERS' actuary. In calculating the actuarial cost of a buy-in, the actuary shall apply the same actuarial assumptions and cost methods used in preparing IPERS' annual actuarial valuation, except that: (1) the retirement assumption shall be changed to 100 percent at the member's earliest unreduced retirement age; and (2) if the actuary uses gender-distinct mortality assumptions, the system shall use blended mortality assumptions reasonably representative of the system's experience. The actuarial cost of a service purchase shall be the difference between (1) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions and current service credits, and (2) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions, current service credits, and all quarters of service credit available for purchase. If IPERS changes the service purchase mortality assumptions upon the recommendation of its actuary, all outstanding service purchase quotes shall be binding for the remainder of the periods for which the cost quotes were issued. A cost quote for a service purchase shall expire six months after it is delivered to the member. After that time, a new cost quote must be obtained for any quarters not previously purchased.

21.24(3) IPERS buy-back. Effective July 1, 1996, only vested or retired members may buy back previously refunded IPERS credit. For the period beginning July 1, 1996, and ending June 30, 1999, an eligible member is required to make membership contributions equal to the accumulated contributions received by the member for the period of service being purchased plus accumulated interest and interest dividends. Effective July 1, 1999, an eligible member must pay the actuarial cost of a buy-back, as certified by IPERS' actuary. In calculating the actuarial cost, the actuary shall apply the same actuarial assumptions and cost methods used in preparing IPERS' annual actuarial valuation, except that: (1) the retirement assumption shall be changed to 100 percent at the member's earliest unreduced retirement age; and (2) if the actuary uses gender-distinct mortality assumptions, the system shall use blended mortality assumptions reasonably representative of the system's experience. The actuarial cost of a service purchase shall be the difference between (1) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions and current service credits, and (2) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions, current service credits, and all quarters of service credit available for purchase. If IPERS changes the service purchase mortality assumptions upon the recommendation of its actuary, all outstanding service purchase quotes shall be binding for the remainder of the periods for which the cost quotes were issued. A cost quote for a service purchase shall expire six months after it is delivered to the member. After that time, a new cost quote must be obtained for any quarters not previously purchased.

Effective July 1, 1996, buy-backs may be made in increments of one or more calendar quarters. Prior to July 1, 1996, the member was required to repurchase the entire period of service and repay the total amount received plus accumulated interest and interest dividends.

A member who is vested solely by having attained the age of 55 must have at least one calendar quarter of wages on file with IPERS before completing a buy-back.

IPERS shall restore the wage records of a member who makes a buy-back and utilize those records in subsequent benefit calculations for that member.

21.24(4) Prior service credit prior to January 1946. A member who had service before January of 1946 but no service between January 1, 1946, and June 30, 1953, is eligible to receive credit for that service at no cost, subject to the member's providing verification of that service. If the member was employed after July 4, 1953, and took a refund of contributions, that member must first participate in the membership service buy-back (see subrule 21.24(3)) before receiving credit for service prior to 1946.

A member must submit proof of service in order to qualify.

21.24(5) Veterans' credit.

a. Effective July 1, 1992, a vested or retired member, in order to receive service credit under the IPERS system, may elect to make employer and employee contributions to IPERS for a period of active duty service in the armed forces of the United States, in increments of one or more calendar quarters, provided that the member:

- (1) Produces verification of active duty service in the armed forces of the United States; and

(2) Is not receiving, or is not eligible to receive, retirement pay from the United States government for active duty service in the armed forces including full retirement disability compensation for this period of service. Disability payments received by the member as compensation for disability incurred while in service of the armed forces, which are not in lieu of military retirement compensation, will not disqualify a member from participating in this program.

A quarter of credit will be given when the date indicated on the DD214 shows service of at least 15 days in the quarter.

b. Prior to July 1, 1990, a person had to be an active member of IPERS as of July 1, 1988, and had to have covered wages during the 1987 calendar year in order to be eligible to apply. Partial buy-ins of allowable service time were not permitted until July 1, 1990.

c. For purchases prior to July 1, 1999, the member must pay IPERS the combined employee and employer contribution amount determined using the member's covered wages for the most recent full calendar year at the applicable rates in effect for that year under Iowa Code sections 97B.11, 97B.49B and 97B.49C for each year of the member's active duty service. A member must have at least four quarters of reported wages in any calendar year before a buy-in cost may be calculated.

d. If a vested or retired member does not have wages in the most recent calendar year, the cost of the buy-in will be calculated using the member's last calendar year of reported wages, adjusted by an inflation factor based on the Consumer Price Index as published by the United States Department of Labor. Between July 1, 1990, and July 1, 1992, members who did not have reported wages in the most recent calendar year were not permitted to purchase their otherwise eligible service time. Effective January 1, 1993, the purchase will not affect the member's high three-year average wage.

e. Members eligible to complete the veterans' buy-in may buy the entire period of service or may buy credit in increments of one or more calendar quarters. If the entire period is not purchased, IPERS will calculate the proportionate cost of this period of service in accordance with this subrule. Fractional years of active service shall qualify a member for the equivalent quarters of credited IPERS covered service.

f. Effective July 1, 1999, an eligible member must pay the actuarial cost of a military service purchase, as certified by IPERS' actuary. In calculating the actuarial cost, the actuary shall apply the same actuarial assumptions and cost methods used in preparing IPERS' annual actuarial valuation, except that: (1) the retirement assumption shall be changed to 100 percent at the member's earliest unreduced retirement age; and (2) if the actuary uses gender-distinct mortality assumptions, the system shall use blended mortality assumptions reasonably representative of the system's experience. The actuarial cost of a service purchase shall be the difference between (1) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions and current service credits, and (2) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions, current service credits, and all quarters of service credit available for purchase. If IPERS changes the service purchase mortality assumptions upon the recommendation of its actuary, all outstanding service purchase quotes shall be binding for the remainder of the periods for which the cost quotes were issued. A cost quote for a service purchase shall expire six months after it is delivered to the member. After that time, a new cost quote must be obtained for any quarters not previously purchased.

21.24(6) Legislative members.

a. *Active members.* Persons who are members of the Seventy-first General Assembly or a succeeding general assembly during any period beginning July 4, 1953, may, upon proof of such membership in the general assembly, make contributions to the system for all or a portion of the period of such service in the general assembly. The contributions made by the member shall be determined in the same manner as provided in subrule 21.24(6)"b."

b. *Vested or retired former members of the general assembly.*

(1) A vested or retired member of the system who was a member of the general assembly prior to July 1, 1988, may make contributions to the system for all or a portion of the period of service in the general assembly.

(2) The contributions made by the member shall be equal to the accumulated contributions as defined in Iowa Code section 97B.41(2), which would have been made if the member of the general assembly had been a member of the system during the period of service in the general assembly being purchased.

(3) The member shall submit proof to IPERS of membership in the general assembly for the period claimed.

(4) Upon determining a member eligible and receiving the appropriate contributions from the member, IPERS shall credit the member with the period of membership service for which contributions are made.

c. Incremental purchases. Service purchased under this subrule must be purchased in increments of one or more calendar quarters.

d. Actuarial cost. Effective July 1, 1999, an eligible member must pay 40 percent and the Iowa legislature shall pay 60 percent of the actuarial cost of a legislative service purchase, as certified by IPERS' actuary. In calculating the actuarial cost, the actuary shall apply the same actuarial assumptions and cost methods used in preparing IPERS' annual actuarial valuation, except that: (1) the retirement assumption shall be changed to 100 percent at the member's earliest unreduced retirement age; and (2) if the actuary uses gender-distinct mortality assumptions, the system shall use blended mortality assumptions reasonably representative of the system's experience. The actuarial cost of a service purchase shall be the difference between (1) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions and current service credits, and (2) the actuarial accrued liability for the member using the foregoing assumptions, current service credits, and all quarters of service credit available for purchase. If IPERS changes the service purchase mortality assumptions upon the recommendation of its actuary, all outstanding service purchase quotes shall be binding for the remainder of the periods for which the cost quotes were issued. A cost quote for a service purchase shall expire six months after it is delivered to the member. After that time, a new cost quote must be obtained for any quarters not previously purchased.

21.24(7) *Vocational school (area college) employees may elect coverage under another retirement system.*

a. Effective July 1, 1990, a person newly entering employment with an area vocational school or area community college may choose to forego IPERS coverage and elect coverage under an alternative retirement benefits system, which is issued by or through a nonprofit corporation issuing retirement annuities exclusively to educational institutions and their employees. This option is available only to those newly hired persons who are already members of the alternative retirement system. Such an election by a newly employed person is irrevocable.

b. Effective July 1, 1994, and providing that the board of directors of the area vocational school or area community college have approved participation in an alternative retirement system pursuant to Iowa Code section 260C.23, a member employed by an area vocational school or an area community college may elect coverage under an alternative retirement benefits system, which is issued by or through a nonprofit corporation issuing retirement annuities exclusively to educational institutions and their employees, in lieu of continuing or commencing contributions to IPERS.

c. Rescinded IAB 7/22/92, effective 7/2/92.

d. Effective July 1, 1994, a person who is employed before that date with an area community college may file a one-time irrevocable election form with IPERS and the employer electing participation in an alternative plan. The election must be postmarked by December 31, 1995. If a person is employed July 1, 1994, or later, the person may file a one-time election with IPERS and the employer electing participation in the alternative plan. The election must be postmarked within 60 days from the date employed. The employee will be a member of IPERS unless an election is filed within the specified time frames. An employee vested with IPERS retains all of the rights of any vested member for as long as the contributions remain with the fund. Members who elect out of IPERS coverage but remain with the same employer are eligible to apply for and receive a refund of their contributions plus interest. Such members may not, however, apply for retirement benefits until attaining the age of 70, or until they terminate employment with all public employers.

21.24(8) Refunds of service purchase amounts. A member may request and receive a refund without interest of all or a portion of amounts paid to IPERS to buy back prior service credit or to purchase credit for other service pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 97B. Such refund requests must be made in writing within 60 days after the date of the receipt issued by IPERS to the member for such amounts. Such refunds shall be in increments representing one or more quarters. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no refund shall be made if a member has made a service purchase under this rule and one or more monthly retirement allowance payments have been made thereafter. Furthermore, this subrule shall not limit IPERS' ability to refund service purchase amounts when required in order to meet the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that apply to IPERS. This subrule shall be effective for refund requests received by IPERS on or after May 3, 1996.

21.24(9) Leaves of absence. Service credit for leaves of absence that begin on or after July 1, 1998, may be purchased. The cost of such service purchases shall be calculated in the same manner as provided for buy-ins under subrule 21.24(2) above. In addition, a member must be vested or retired, and must have one calendar year of wages on file in order to make such a purchase.

21.24(10) Service credit under Iowa Code section 97B.42A(4). Service credit for periods of time prior to January 1, 1999, when the member was employed in a position for which coverage could have been elected, but was not, may be purchased. The cost of such service purchases shall be calculated in the same manner as provided for buy-ins under subrule 21.24(2) above. In addition, a member must be vested or retired, and must have one calendar year of wages on file in order to make such a purchase. A member shall not be able to purchase service under this rule that was not eligible for optional coverage at the time of the employment.

21.24(11) Public employment service credit under Iowa Code section 97B.80A. A vested or retired member who has five or more years of service credit and who was previously employed in public employment for which optional coverage was not available, such as substitute teaching or other temporary employment, may purchase up to 20 quarters of service credit for such employment subject to the requirements of Iowa Code section 97B.80A. Service credit may not be purchased under this subrule for time periods when the member was eligible to elect coverage and failed to do so, or affirmatively elected out of coverage. Also, service credit may not be purchased under this subrule for periods in which the individual was performing services as an independent contractor. The contributions required under this subrule shall be in an amount equal to the actuarial cost of the service purchase as determined under 21.24(2) "f."

21.24(12) Federal Peace Corps program service credit under Iowa Code section 97B.80B. A vested or retired member who has five or more years of service credit and who was previously employed full-time as a member of the federal Peace Corps program may purchase up to 20 quarters of service credit for such employment, subject to the requirements of Iowa Code section 97B.80B. Members with service credit for such employment under another public retirement system must provide a waiver of the service time to IPERS along with proof that the other public retirement system has accepted the waiver and allows withdrawals of the related service credit. The contributions required under this subrule shall be in an amount equal to the actuarial cost of the service purchase as determined under 21.24(2) "f."

21.24(13) Purchase of service credit for employment with a qualified Canadian governmental entity. A vested or retired member who has five or more years of service credit and who was previously employed full-time by a qualified Canadian governmental entity, as defined in Iowa Code section 97B.73, may purchase up to 20 quarters of service credit for such employment, subject to the requirements of Iowa Code section 97B.73. Members with service credit for such employment under another public retirement system must provide a waiver of the service time to IPERS along with proof that the other public retirement system has accepted the waiver and allows withdrawals of the related service credit. All communications from qualified Canadian governmental entities and their retirement systems must be certified in English translation. The contributions required under this subrule shall be in an amount equal to the actuarial cost of the service purchase as determined under 21.24(2) "f."

21.24(14) Patient advocate service purchases.

a. Current and former patient advocates employed under Iowa Code section 229.19 shall be eligible for a wage adjustment under Iowa Code section 97B.9(4) for the four quarters preceding the date that the patient advocate began IPERS coverage, or effective July 1, 2000, whichever is earlier. Counties shall be the covered employers responsible for contributing the employer share of such wage adjustment. Additional service credit for employment as a patient advocate may be purchased as follows:

(1) For purchases of membership service made prior to July 1, 2002, the cost for each quarter shall be the total of all employer and employee contributions on the covered wages that would have been reported to the department under Iowa Code chapter 97B for the applicable period of service, divided by the total quarters covered by such period of service. No interest shall be charged in determining said amounts.

(2) For purchases completed on or after July 1, 2002, the cost for each quarter will be calculated using the methods set forth in paragraph 21.24(2) "f."

b. Current patient advocates, former patient advocates who are vested or retired, and former patient advocates who have four quarters of wages on file as the result of wage adjustments shall qualify for service purchases under this subrule.

21.24(15) IRC Section 415(n) compliance. Effective for service purchases made on or after January 1, 1998, service purchases made under this rule and other posttax contributions shall not exceed \$35,000, or the defined contribution dollar limit then in effect under Internal Revenue Code Section 415(c), per calendar year. In addition, the amounts contributed for service purchases under this rule shall not exceed the amount required to purchase the service according to the current cost schedules. In implementing these and the other requirements of IRC Section 415(n), IPERS shall use the following procedures.

a. If the member's total benefit at retirement passes the fully reduced IRC Section 415(b) dollar limit test, IPERS shall pay the total benefit.

b. If the member's total benefit at retirement fails the fully reduced IRC Section 415(b) dollar limit test, and the member made one or more service purchases, IPERS shall perform the applicable IRC Section 415 tests, with adjustments for posttax service purchases and other posttax contributions, and pay excess amounts, if any, under a qualified benefits arrangement authorized under Iowa Code section 97B.491.

c. IPERS shall not permit the purchase of nonqualified service, as defined under IRC Section 415(n), unless such service is specifically authorized by the Iowa legislature. If so authorized, a member must have five years of existing service to make such a purchase, and the quarters of service purchased cannot exceed 20.

d. The limitations of this rule shall not apply to buybacks of prior refunds. In addition, the annual limit under this rule shall not apply to service purchases grandfathered under the provisions of the Iowa Code and Section 1526 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

e. If IPERS adopts rules and procedures permitting service to be purchased on a pretax basis, the amounts contributed will not be combined with posttax service purchases and other posttax contributions in applying the foregoing procedures.

f. The provisions of this subrule shall apply to all vested members who have an account balance and retirees.

g. IPERS reserves the right to apply the limitations of IRC Section 415(n) on a case-by-case basis to ensure that such limits are not exceeded.

21.24(16) If a member is attempting to purchase service credit under this rule, and any particular subrule under this rule requires that the member must have four calendar quarters of wages on file as a precondition to making the purchase, and the member's regular job duties are performed in fewer than four calendar quarters each year, the four calendar quarter requirement shall be reduced to the number of calendar quarters regularly worked by the member.

21.24(17) If a member is attempting to purchase service credit under this rule, or any other rule relating to the purchase of service credit, the determination of the actuarial cost of the service purchase shall include assumptions based on the regular retirement formula, special service retirement formula, or hybrid retirement formula under which the member will actually retire.

21.24(18) Service purchase cost quotes.

a. General requirements.

(1) Active and inactive members. IPERS shall provide the following information to IPERS' actuary in order to calculate service purchase cost quotes for active and inactive members: date of birth, the applicable occupation class code, total years of current unused IPERS service credit, highest calendar year of covered wages on file, member's current investment, the number of quarters available to purchase on this cost quote, and whether the service purchase cost quote is for a buy-back or buy-in.

If the service purchase cost quote is for a buy-back, IPERS shall provide the highest calendar year of covered wages on file regardless of whenever those wages occurred, including quarters covered by a refund. Effective July 1, 2003, IPERS shall provide information to the actuary whether the refund included an employer share, and the actuarial cost of the buy-back shall be adjusted accordingly.

(2) Retired members. For retired members, IPERS shall provide the following information to IPERS' actuary in order to calculate service purchase cost quotes: date of birth, the applicable occupation class code, average of the highest three calendar years of covered wages, the option the member selected at retirement, the number of quarters available to purchase on this cost quote, a calculation of the member's new benefit amount if the member actually purchases all of the quarters in this service purchase cost quote, and whether the service purchase is a buy-back or buy-in.

In addition to providing the above information to IPERS' actuary, if the member retired under Option 4 or 6, IPERS shall provide, if applicable, either the date of death (if known) or the date of birth for the contingent annuitant, and the percent selected by the member for continuation of benefits to the contingent annuitant upon the member's death. If the member retired under Option 6, IPERS shall calculate how the member's benefits will change under Option 2 upon the contingent annuitant's death and provide this information to the actuary. In preparing cost quotes for retirees who selected Option 4 or 6, IPERS' actuary shall use for beneficiary mortality assumption the reverse of the assumption used for benefit mortality.

If the member retired under Option 5, IPERS shall provide information on how many months are remaining on the guaranteed 10-year payout.

(3) Reemployment. If the member is retired and subsequently reemployed in IPERS covered employment, and then requests a service purchase cost quote, IPERS shall apply the service to be purchased to the period of employment that will provide the greatest increase in benefits to the member. IPERS shall supply to the actuary the same information as described for retirees in paragraph "b" of this subrule, and IPERS' actuary will appropriately calculate the service purchase cost quote.

(4) Wages restored. When buy-back quarters are purchased, the member's wage record shall be restored, beginning with the lowest wage quarter and restoring additional quarters in ascending order based on the covered wages reported for such quarters. Wage records shall not be created or restored for any other type of service purchase.

b. Special situations. Buy-backs of special service time. Refunded special service credit may be purchased as special service credit or as regular service credit subject to the following conditions:

(1) If the member's current unused service credit record consists of only regular service credit, buy-back cost quotes shall be prepared reflecting purchase as regular service credit and alternatively as special service credit. The member may choose whether to buy back the service credit in question as regular service credit or as special service credit, but not as a combination of both.

(2) If the member's current unused service credit record consists of a combination of regular and special service credit, then, regardless of the member's current occupation classification code, buy-back cost quotes shall be prepared reflecting purchase as regular service credit and alternatively as special service credit. The member may choose whether to buy back the service credit in question as regular service credit or as special service credit, but not as a combination of both.

(3) If the member is currently working in a special service class position, and the member's current service credit record consists of only special service credit, the buy-back cost quote shall be prepared as a special service class purchase.

c. Buy-ins.

(1) Buy-in service purchase cost quotes for members currently in special service positions shall be prepared as special service credit.

(2) Buy-in service purchase cost quotes for a member with a combination of currently unused regular and special service credit shall be prepared reflecting purchase as regular service credit and alternatively as special service credit, regardless of the member's current occupation classification code. The member may choose whether to purchase the service as regular service credit or as special service credit, but not as a combination of both.

(3) Members covered under another retirement plan. Members who wish to buy service credit for employment that is covered by another defined benefit retirement plan qualified under IRC section 401(a) must waive their right to benefits based on the service credit that is being purchased under IPERS. If a waiver is not obtained, service purchases for such employment, including but not limited to employment with another public employer, shall be limited to 20 quarters.

(4) Members retired under IPERS' disability formula. A retired member receiving IPERS benefits as a result of a disability shall receive a service purchase cost quote which reflects no penalty for early age reduction.

d. Limitations.

(1) Under no circumstances shall service purchases be allowed for quarters already on file with IPERS as covered quarters.

(2) Service purchases characterized as nonqualified permissive service credit under IRC Section 415(n) shall not exceed 20 quarters.

(3) If a member has requested a service purchase cost quote and, before the six-month expiration has passed, submits another request for a service purchase cost quote for the same or different employer, the new service purchase cost quote will be based on a combination of the two service purchase cost quotes. The latest service purchase cost quote shall supersede all prior cost quotes provided to the member for the quarters that the member purchases after the issuance of the second cost quote.

(4) If before the six-month expiration has passed a member has made a partial purchase under a service purchase cost quote and requests another service purchase cost quote, the quarters covered by the original cost quote will be added to the new request. IPERS' actuary will prepare a new service purchase cost quote. The latest service purchase cost quote shall supersede all prior quotes provided to the member for quarters that the member purchases after the issuance of the second cost quote. For example, if the member receives a cost quote of \$300 per quarter for 6 quarters of Illinois public employment and, three months later, after buying 3 Illinois quarters, requests a service purchase cost quote for 8 quarters of military service, the second quote would be prepared using 11 quarters as the basis for the cost quote. The per-quarter cost quote prepared using the 11 quarters would supersede the \$300 per quarter cost previously quoted. This superseding cost principle will apply regardless of whether the recalculated cost is greater or less than the superseded quote. Thus, in the above example, if the second cost quote is \$350, that would be the price for all 11 quarters for the next six months. However, if the new quote comes in at \$250 per quarter, that will be the cost for all 11 quarters for the next six months.

(5) Purchases for service credit for employment outside the U.S. Service credit for employment with a foreign employer is limited to purchases of service with a qualified Canadian governmental entity as permitted under Iowa Code section 97B.73, or with the federal Peace Corps program under Iowa Code section 97B.80B.

(6) Self-employed member. Because of the difficulty in documenting what portion of the amounts paid are actually related to the performance of services, including amounts reported to the federal and state tax authorities, members shall not be permitted to purchase service credit for periods of self-employment.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.42, 97B.43, 97B.72A, 97B.73, 97B.74, 97B.75, 97B.80, 97B.80A and 97B.80B.

581—21.25(97B) South Africa restrictions. Rescinded IAB 7/5/95, effective 8/9/95.

581—21.26(97B) Garnishments and income withholding orders. For the limited purposes of this rule, the term “member” includes IPERS members, beneficiaries, contingent annuitants and any other third-party payees to whom IPERS is paying a monthly benefit or a lump sum distribution.

A member’s right to any payment from IPERS is not transferable or assignable and is not subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, including bankruptcy or insolvency law, except for the purpose of enforcing child, spousal, or medical support.

Only members receiving payment from IPERS, including monthly benefits and lump sum distributions, may be subject to garnishment, attachment, or execution against funds that are payable. Such garnishment, attachment, or execution is not valid and enforceable for members who have not applied for and been approved to receive funds from IPERS.

Upon receipt of an income withholding order issued by the Iowa department of human services or a court, IPERS shall send a copy of the withholding order to the member. If a garnishment has been issued by a court, the party pursuing the garnishment shall send a notice pursuant to Iowa law to the member against whom the garnishment is issued.

IPERS shall continue to withhold a portion of the member’s monthly benefit as specified in the initial withholding order until instructed by the court or the Iowa department of human services issuing the order to amend or cease payment. IPERS shall continue to withhold a portion of the member’s monthly benefit as specified in the garnishment until the garnishment expires or is released.

Funds withheld or garnished are taxable to the member. IPERS may assess a fee of \$2 per payment in accordance with Iowa Code section 252D.18A(2). The fee will be deducted from the gross amount, less federal and state income tax, before a distribution is divided.

A garnishment, attachment or execution may not be levied upon funds which are already the subject of a levy, including a levy placed upon funds by the United States Internal Revenue Service, unless the requirements of 26 CFR Section 6334-1(a)(8) are met. Multiple garnishments, attachments and executions are allowed as long as the amount levied upon does not exceed the limitations prescribed in 15 U.S.C. Section 1673(b).

IPERS may release information relating to entitlement to funds to a court or to the Iowa department of human services prior to receipt of a valid garnishment, attachment, execution, or income withholding order when presented with a written request stating the information requested and reasons for the request. This request must be signed by a magistrate, judge, or child support recovery unit director or the director’s designee, including an attorney representing the Iowa department of human services. In addition, IPERS may release information to the Iowa department of human services through automated matches.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.38 and 97B.39.

581—21.27(97B) Rollovers. If a member who is paid a lump sum distribution, or a beneficiary who is the member's spouse and is paid a lump sum death benefit which qualifies to be rolled over, requests that the taxable portion be rolled over to more than one IRA or other qualified plan, IPERS may assess a \$5 administrative fee for each additional rollover beyond the first one. The fee will be deducted from the gross amount of each distribution, less federal and state income tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.38, 97B.48, 97B.48A, 97B.52, 97B.53, and 97B.53B.

581—21.28(97B) Offsets against amounts payable. IPERS may, with or without consent and upon reasonable proof thereof, offset amounts currently payable to a member or the member's designated beneficiaries, heirs, assigns or other successors in interest by the amount of IPERS benefits paid in error to or on behalf of such member or the member's designated beneficiaries, heirs, assigns or other successors in interest.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 97B.4, 97B.15 and 97B.25.

581—21.29(97B) Qualified domestic relations orders. This rule shall apply only to marital property orders. All support orders shall continue to be administered under rule 581—21.26(97B).

21.29(1) Definitions.

"Alternate payee" means a spouse or former spouse of a member who is recognized by a domestic relations order as having a right to receive all or a portion of the benefits payable by IPERS with respect to such member. "Alternate payee" also refers to persons who are entitled pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order to receive benefits after the death of the original alternate payee.

"Benefits" means, for purposes of this rule and depending on the context, a refund, monthly allowance (including monthly allowance paid as an actuarial equivalent (AE)), or death benefit payable with respect to a member covered under IPERS. "Benefits" does not include dividends payable under Iowa Code section 97B.49 or other cost-of-living increases unless specifically provided for in a qualified domestic relations order.

"Domestic relations order" means any judgment, decree, or order which relates to the provision of marital property rights to a spouse or former spouse of a member and is made pursuant to the domestic relations laws of a state.

"Member" means, for purposes of this rule, IPERS members, beneficiaries, and contingent annuitants.

"Qualified domestic relations order" means a domestic relations order which assigns to an alternate payee the right to receive all or a portion of the benefits payable with respect to a member under IPERS and meets the requirements of this rule.

"Trigger event" means a distribution or series of distributions of benefits made with respect to a member.